



# *St. Paul News*

## *July and August 2024*

### **St. Paul Lutheran Church**

*The Lutheran Church -  
Missouri Synod*

1050 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Granite Falls, MN 56241

Rev. Jonathan Varns  
Pastor

860 11th Ave  
Granite Falls, MN 56241  
218-235-8493

shepherdofthecross@gmail.com

Church office  
320-564-2221

stpaulgf@embarqmail.com  
www.stpaulgf.org

Chairman  
DuWayne Galow  
320-435-0620

#### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of St. Paul Lutheran Church is to promote the worship of the Triune God as revealed in Holy Scriptures, by teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ and administering the Sacraments, in order to equip people for Christian life and service.

#### **Pastor's Message**

An ancient Hebrew fable goes like this:

Once there was a small leaf on an limb of a tall tree. The leaf was very content with its good life until it saw the birds flying above the forest. The leaf, then, yearned to be free like the birds, free to fly and experience many different things. The leaf struggled and struggled to be free. Then one morning, a strong gust of wind jerked the leaf from the limb and sent it sailing above the forest. It was free! It could now flit about as it pleased! How exhilarating it was for the leaf to see all the strange, new sights! It was great! Soon, however, the leaf began its journey downward and, eventually, it joined the other dead and dying leaves on the forest floor. There the sun's lethal rays struck the leaf. As the leaf withered and died, it cried out, "This is not freedom! This is not freedom! This is death!" Too late the leaf realized that freedom does not mean separation and complete independence. How wrong it was!

There are people and groups of people who think that only complete liberty with license to do anything one desires is freedom. They desire to do things as they please. This means freedom to not go to Sunday service or bible study if something else comes up. This means freedom to not serve in God's church because of old age or a busy life.

When this kind of freedom is applied to matters of faith and God, independence from God, His way, His will, His Word always marks the beginning of the journey downward. It cannot be otherwise.

As people of God, we know that the answer to real freedom is definitely not in doing our own thing. True and lasting freedom does not mean complete independence, but rather complete dependence on the Lord our God, having a heart that cries out, "Lord, what would you have me to do?" Only as we depend on God for His love, mercy, grace and strength, which He gives us through Christ Jesus, do we have freedom, especially the forgiveness of all our sins.

Only when we depend on the Lord God to provide us with spiritual food, His Word and Sacraments, do we have the strengthening of our faith in His Son our Savior who reminds us, "If you continue in My Word, then are you My disciples indeed, and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." John 8:31-32. Only as we depend on the Lord can we hope for that life which can never be separated from God, that life in Him.

Jesus continues in v. 36, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed." Oh yes, Christ Jesus frees us so that now we can live to Him, with Him and for Him. Have a blessed freedom day!

+God's Peace+

Pastor Jonathan Varns

(reprinted from August 2021 Newsletter)

# ITEMS OF INTEREST

## LWML Happenings

The "Noisy Offering" along with the mites for June was \$47.07. Thanks for your continued support for LWML Missions!

Sunday, July 14th we will meet after the church service in a Sunday School room to have our quarterly meeting and finalize the plans for the Summertime Pie Social. This will be a very brief meeting.

Our annual Summertime Pie Social will be held on Wednesday, July 17th. There are sheets set out in the entry of church to sign up for different shifts to help prepare and serve food, and help with the cleanup. Also we are still in need of people to help make pies. Bring along your friends, neighbors and relatives for a special treat of our huge variety of pies and good supper! See the back page for more information.

This fall the Joy Shop will again be held at our church. The planning meeting for this event will be on Thursday, July 18th at 1 pm at St. Paul's in Montevideo. Meet at the church parking lot to carpool for this planning event. If you have ideas for a theme and speaker, please contact Judy R or Sue E so that we can share this at the Zone meeting. There are 10 area churches included in our Zone. They include: St. John's in Madison, St. Luke's of Posen, St. John's of Sparta, Redeemer of Willmar, Living Word of New London, Trinity of Havelock, Nicolai of Canby, St. Paul's of Montevideo, Zion of Boyd and our own congregation, St. Paul's of Granite Falls.



## School Supplies

Stores are now offering great deals on back to school supplies and a perfect time to fill the collection boxes that you can find in the coatroom. If you wish to donate items they will go to Bert Raney Elementary, Home Schooling, and Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes.

## Save the Date

**September 22, 2024**

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

**125th Anniversary Celebration**

10 a.m. Worship Service

Group Photo following the Service

11:30 a.m. Catered Dinner

Visiting & Time to look at Memorabilia

3 p.m. The Garms Family Concert

Followed by an Ice Cream Social.

## July Birthdays

July 1	Brandon Beyer
July 3	Ross Galow
July 4	Jennifer Johnson Creed McCune
July 5	Kandi Johnson
July 7	Tiffany Hustad
July 8	Steve Johnson Jenn Luepke
July 9	Len Markgraf
July 11	James Holtan
July 12	Gavin Soukup Eugene Streich
July 13	Jason Hoff Madison Jeseritz
July 14	Marlue Folkens
July 15	Lorna Ulven
July 16	Katie Keller LeeRoy Nelson
July 17	Meredith Zempel
July 18	Tiffany Miller Saylor Myers Chloe Van Sickle
July 19	Mason Luepke
July 20	Dylon DeVries Verlyn Kling
July 21	Laura Nelson
July 22	Wesley Peterson Trinity Kirschbaum Keirsten Markgraf
July 27	Kristi Doose Valeria Hildahl Donnie Trotter
July 28	Dorothy Ims
July 30	Bryan Rush
July 31	Tamara Berends Debra Kvam Larry Wilking Kevin Zimmer

## Birthday Blessings to you all.

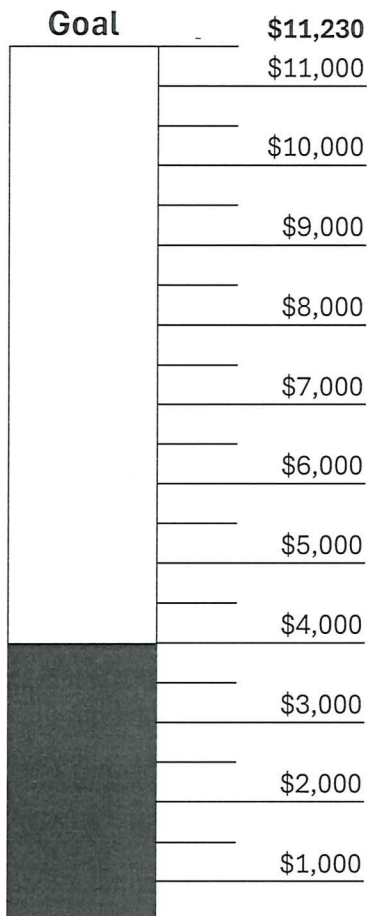
Please contact the church office if we missed yours.

Portals of Prayer for July - September are available in the narthex.

# Funds Needed

At the Quarterly Voters' meeting that was held June 23rd it was discussed all the work that needs to be done before the 125th Anniversary Celebration. First it was painting the crosses, lettering, and bell tower. The voters approved to have Zempel's do this and their quoted price was \$6,230. Also all the tile flooring needs waxing and the members choose to have it professional done. This cost is approximately \$5,000. Please help us reach our goal. Your donation can be dropped off in the office, mailed in or placed in the offering plate. Please designate in the memo line that it is for "painting and waxing project."

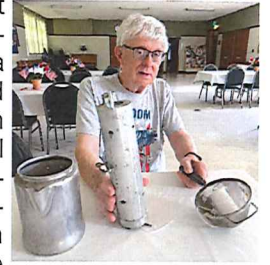
Painting and Waxing  
Thermometer



As of June 30, 2024

# Refection from the past

Does anyone recognize what Lanny Hoyer is holding in this picture? Lanny designed and made a mold where he could reuse old church candles and melt them down and by using at least 3 small old candles, he now had a brand-new tall church candle for the candleabra! In the picture you can also see his old coffee pot that the old candles were melted in on a small heating pad. The strainer was held on top of the form to strain out any particles of the old candles that still had wick left in them. Lanny recalls that the bees wax was probably the best type of wax to reuse as it didn't smoke like other candle wax.



The form that Lanny designed has 2 clamps on it and to open it you use a screwdriver at a designated area to open it. Lanny put a clamp on the top and bottom to hold the wick while the hot wax was being poured into the mold. The entire process took approximately 45 minutes to complete one candle. He poured the mold about 1/3 full and let it set and settle and then repeated that process two more times. Lanny remembers purchasing the wick at JoAnn Fabrics in Willmar.

Hats off to Lanny for designing a candle mold to reuse old church candles! Years later someone donated new candles that had oil in them and so we no longer buy candles. Lanny's candle mold will be on display at the 125th Anniversary celebration in one of the Sunday School rooms with other church memorabilia.

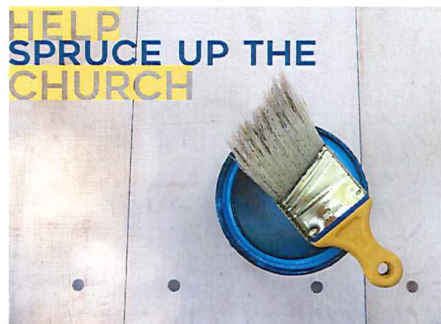
# Vital Statistics

Attendance and Offering Report for June

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Sun, June 2	63	\$3,334.00
Sun, June 9	47	\$1,445.00
Sun, June 16	61	\$3,281.00
Sun, June 23	55	\$1,428.00
Sun, June 30	58	\$2,895.00
(2024 Budget Income needed each Sunday - \$3,822.00)		

# Financials as of 6-30-2024

Year to Date Actual Contributions	\$80,224.84
Year to Date Contributions Needed	<u>\$90,602.46</u>
Difference	(\$10,377.62)
Year to Date Actual Expenses	\$90,376.91
Year to Date Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$90,602.46</u>
Difference	\$225.55



**SAC Groups** will be our greeters and ushers.  
If this is your month to serve, please prayerfully  
consider where you are able to and willing to help.

## Group 3

### Serving for July

Baker, Lisa  
Brown, Mike and Anne  
Cuklanz, Larry and Nancy  
Duenwald, Karley  
Freitag, Avis  
Gabbert, Carol  
Galow, DuWayne and Karen  
Hegna, Rolland and RaeAnn  
Hewitt, Loretta  
Hildahl, Linda  
Hoff, Jason and Molly  
Ims, Dorothy  
Iverson, Pam  
Johnson, Jennifer  
Just, Wes and Norma

Kelly, Mary  
Kvam, Curtis  
Nelson, Carol  
Olson, LuAnn  
Peterson, LeRoy and Jan  
Quintal, Teresa  
Reinke, Gerald and Darlene  
Rigge, Vernon and Anita  
Rush, Barb  
Schmidt, Deven and Jill  
Schmidt, Douglas Jr. and  
Darla  
Steffen, Boyd  
Streich, Eugene  
Streich, Linda  
Trotter, Donnie and Jodi  
Ulven, Lorna  
Van Sickle, Eric and Jane  
Winters, Kelly

### Daily Bible Readings for July

Jul 1	1 Kings 1	Hosea 4:12-5:4	Mark 11:1-14
Jul 2	1 Kings 2	Hosea 5:5-15	Mark 11:15-33
Jul 3	1 Kings 3	Hosea 6:1-7:2	Mark 12:1-27
Jul 4	1 Kings 4-5	Hosea 7:3-16	Mark 12:28-44
Jul 5	1 Kings 6	Hosea 8	Mark 13:1-13
Jul 6	1 Kings 7	Hosea 9:1-16	Mark 13:14-37
Jul 7	1 Kings 8	Hosea 9:17-10:15	Mark 14:1-31
Jul 8	1 Kings 9	Hosea 11:1-11	Mark 14:32-72
Jul 9	1 Kings 10	Hosea 11:12-12:14	Mark 15:1-20
Jul 10	1 Kings 11	Hosea 13	Mark 15:21-47
Jul 11	1 Kings 12:1-31	Hosea 14	Mark 16
Jul 12	1 Kings 12:32-13:34	Joel 1	1 Corinthians 1:1-17
Jul 13	1 Kings 14	Joel 2:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Jul 14	1 Kings 15:1-32	Joel 2:12-32	1 Corinthians 2
Jul 15	1 Kings 15:33-16:34	Joel 3	1 Corinthians 3
Jul 16	1 Kings 17	Amos 1	1 Corinthians 4
Jul 17	1 Kings 18	Amos 2:1-3:2	1 Corinthians 5
Jul 18	1 Kings 19	Amos 3:3-4:3	1 Corinthians 6
Jul 19	1 Kings 20	Amos 4:4-13	1 Corinthians 7:1-24
Jul 20	1 Kings 21	Amos 5	1 Cor. 7:25-40
Jul 21	1 Kings 22	Amos 6	1 Corinthians 8
Jul 22	2 Kings 1-2	Amos 7	1 Corinthians 9
Jul 23	2 Kings 3	Amos 8	1 Corinthians 10
Jul 24	2 Kings 4	Amos 9	1 Cor. 11:1-16
Jul 25	2 Kings 5	Obadiah 1	1 Cor. 11:17-34
Jul 26	2 Kings 6:1-7:2	Jonah 1	1 Corinthians 12
Jul 27	2 Kings 7:3-20	Jonah 2	1 Corinthians 13
Jul 28	2 Kings 8	Jonah 3	1 Cor. 14:1-25
Jul 29	2 Kings 9	Jonah 4	1 Cor. 14:26-4
Jul 30	2 Kings 10	Micah 1	1 Cor. 15:1-34
Jul 31	2 Kings 11	Micah 2	1 Cor. 15:35-58

## Convention Report

"Walking as Children of Light" was the theme for the Minnesota North District LWML Convention held at Cragun's Resort, Brainerd June 3-5. Mary Hammer and Judy Rode were among 250 attendees.

Worship services were held Monday evening and Wednesday morning. Bible Study was led by Rev. Dr. Lovejoy from Grand Rapids. President Kathy Brandt, and zone presidents carried the processional banners preceding the first convention meeting Tuesday morning. Business meetings were conducted to elect officers and determine the mission grants for the 2025-2027 biennium in the amount of \$147,000. The Keynote Speaker was Katie Schuermann, a nationally known author. Her latest book, "The Saints of Whistle Grove" was offered for sale. Contact Mary H or Judy R if you wish to read the book.

A Silent Auction was held to defray the convention expenses. Each society was asked to donate a basket for the auction. This fundraiser collected \$3,566 and The Mite Walk brought in \$4,136.

The ingathering items were donated to Relationship Safety Alliance (RSA), an organization in Fargo that supports people exposed to relationship abuse.

Three offerings were collected:

- #1. \$5,063.40 was gathered and applied towards the LWML Minnesota North District Mission Grant Goal.
- #2. \$4,428.60 went to Perry Center in Fargo to minister single women experiencing pregnancy.
- #3. \$4,232.08 was given to Lutheran Island Camp for financial aid to keep camp fees affordable.

The convention was a great time to make and renew friendship of LWML sisters. Ladies and young women, consider attending the National LWML Convention in Omaha in 2025. You will be blessed!

Congratulations to  
Pastor and Lindsay on the  
birth of their little baby  
boy, Matthew.

**SAC Groups** will be our greeters and ushers.  
If this is your month to serve, please prayerfully  
consider where you are able to and willing to help.

## Group 4

### **Serving for August**

Banken, Jim and Janine  
Baumann, Jayne  
Bruss, Margie  
Canatsey, Kristin  
Donner, Jenelle  
Donner, Jessica  
Ebel, Colton and Emily  
Edman, Tom and Tammy  
Gabbert, Don and Jeanne  
Hildahl, Dan and Valerie  
Holtan, Marie  
Hoyer, Lanny  
Jeseritz, Tanya  
Johnson, Mark  
Keller, Katie  
Kling, Verlyn and Barb

Kvam, Carrie  
Kvam, Gordon  
Kvam, LeRoy and Debra  
Luepke, Mike and Pam  
Meyer, Greg and Jackie  
Meyer, Larry and Karla  
Petersen, Loren and Marci  
Reese, Tom  
Rude, Odell and Carol  
Schultz, Dennis and Phyllis  
Skjefte, Dave and Val  
Smith, Dennis and Lu-Ann  
Steffen, Kerry and Julie  
Timm, Craig and Susan  
Timm, Daphne  
Timm, Lee  
Twedt, Charles and Kari  
Wilking, Larry  
Yeager, Dave and Darlene

### **Daily Bible Readings for August**

Aug 1	2 Kings 12-13	Micah 3	1 Corinthians 16
Aug 2	2 Kings 14	Micah 4:1-5:1	2 Cor. 1:1-2:4
Aug 3	2 Kings 15-16	Micah 5:2-15	2 Cor. 2:5-3:18
Aug 4	2 Kings 17	Micah 6	2 Cor. 4:1-5:10
Aug 5	2 Kings 18	Micah 7	2 Cor. 5:11-6:13
Aug 6	2 Kings 19	Nahum 1	2 Cor. 6:14-7:16
Aug 7	2 Kings 20-21	Nahum 2	2 Corinthians 8
Aug 8	2 Kings 22:1-23:35	Nahum 3	2 Corinthians 9
Aug 9	2 Kings 23:36-24:20	Habakkuk 1	2 Corinthians 10
Aug 10	2 Kings 25	Habakkuk 2	2 Corinthians 11
Aug 11	1 Chronicles 1-2	Habakkuk 3	2 Corinthians 12
Aug 12	1 Chronicles 3-4	Zephaniah 1	2 Corinthians
Aug 13	1 Chronicles 5-6	Zephaniah 2	John 1:1-18
Aug 14	1 Chronicles 7-8	Zephaniah 3	John 1:19-34
Aug 15	1 Chronicles 9	Haggai 1-2	John 1:35-51
Aug 16	1 Chronicles 10-11	Zechariah 1	John 2
Aug 17	1 Chronicles 12	Zechariah 2	John 3:1-21
Aug 18	1 Chronicles 13-14	Zechariah 3	John 3:22-36
Aug 19	1 Chron. 15:1-16:6	Zechariah 4	John 4:1-26
Aug 20	1 Chron. 16:7-43	Zechariah 5	John 4:27-42
Aug 21	1 Chronicles 17	Zechariah 6	John 4:43-54
Aug 22	1 Chronicles 18-19	Zechariah 7	John 5:1-18
Aug 23	1 Chron. 20:1-22:1	Zechariah 8	John 5:19-47
Aug 24	1 Chron. 22:2-23:32	Zechariah 9	John 6:1-21
Aug 25	1 Chronicles 24	Zechariah 10	John 6:22-59
Aug 26	1 Chronicles 25-26	Zechariah 11	John 6:60-71
Aug 27	1 Chronicles 27-28	Zechariah 12	John 7:1-24
Aug 28	1 Chronicles 29	Zechariah 13	John 7:25-52
Aug 29	2 Chron. 1:1-2:16	Zechariah 14	John 8:1-20
Aug 30	2 Chron. 2:17-5:1	Malachi 1:1-2:9	John 8:21-47
Aug 31	2 Chronicles 5:2-14	Malachi 2:10-16	John 8:48-59

## **August Birthdays**

Aug 1	Kaisley Luepke Brent Reynolds
Aug 2	Mary Kelly
Aug 3	Sue Erickson Jackie Meyer Tom Peterson
Aug 6	Kelly Schulte Tyler Staab
Aug 7	Marjorie Bruss
Aug 8	Rachel Anderson Daniel Beito Kimberly Oien
Aug 9	Loren Petersen
Aug 11	Curtis Kvam CoraAnn Wagner
Aug 12	Tanya Jeseritz Ethan Kontz
Aug 14	Les Sherman Julie Steffen Chyanne Tesch
Aug 16	Wayne Olson Anita Rigge
Aug 21	Laura Beyer Tarin Gatchell Ted Johnson Janet Kirschbaum Hailey Lindstrom Paden Strutz
Aug 22	Greg Kirschbaum
Aug 23	Sam Canatsey Coltan Ebel Brooke Meyer
Aug 24	Wrigley Zens
Aug 25	Nick Lindstrom
Aug 31	Sylvia Buchholz Rolland Hegna Chelsea Schmidt

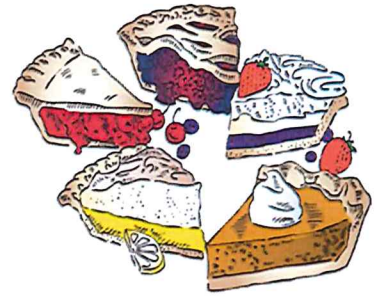
### **Birthday Blessings to you all.**

Please contact the  
church office  
if we missed yours.

Enjoy  
God's  
Creation



# Summertime Pie Social



St. Paul Lutheran Church

1050 10th Ave, Granite Falls

Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Menu: Barbeques, Hot Dogs,  
Potato Salad, Baked Beans,  
Potato Chips, Homemade Pie,  
Ice Cream, Coffee, and Lemonade

Prices: Adults.....\$14.00

Ages 2-10.....\$6

Under 2.....Free

Family of 4.....\$35

Sponsored by St. Paul Lutheran LWML

"Lutheran Women In Mission "

Partnered with Thrivent Action Team.

Proceeds from this event help support LWML mission projects.

Takeout meals available - 320-564-2221